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*Effect of Suckling.*—I have heard it alleged of countries where wet-nurses are much employed, that the children acquire a likeness to the nurses. Are there any recorded observations? O. K.

I see mentioned in a recent work entitled "Under Egyptian Palms," that in one of the cavern tombs on the Nile the skulls contained perfect teeth, "and the upper teeth had in many instances *been filed sharp* ; and the author goes on to say that Livingstone speaks of certain tribes of central Africa where women file their teeth to a point. May I ask any of your readers if this custom is well authenticated as common to East Africa in ancient or modern times. J. H. L.

*Scalping.*—Scalping has not hitherto been considered a characteristic custom of any of the wild tribes on the north-eastern frontier of Bengal. It appears to be so, however, for Mr. Daly, Official District Superintendent of Police, in reporting an attack by the Loshai Rookiies on the Manae-Rhiel tea-gardens in Cachae on the 4th of January, 1869, writes as follows :—"The bodies of seven coolies were found, one man, five women, and a child. I only observed that the head of the man had been removed. This, however (the head), I found about one hundred yards from the trunk, and with the scalp taken off ; and in commenting on this raid, the *Friend of India* confirms the statement that the object of the Loshais was to obtain scalps to use in celebrating the funeral rites of a late chief. The Naga tribes, says that journal, use the scalping-knife with a ferocity which is only equalled by the American Indians, and the scalps are carefully preserved as evidences of their prowess and vengeance over their enemies. On the death of a chief all the scalps taken by him during his warlike career are burned with his remains."

#### NOTICES OF ETHNOLOGY.

SOME excavations have lately been made by the Rev. Frederick Porter, in a cromlech in the Island of Jersey, known by the name of the Druids' Temple or Polgulaye, at Faldouet. It is situated on a plateau immediately over Gorey and Ann Port, and is described by Falle, in his *History of Jersey*.

The following account of the excavations is given by Mr. Porter in the *Jersey Times* of the 8th February, 1869 :—"When I first saw the cromlech I found it had been partly opened, but there was still much to explore. On inquiry, I ascertained that some thirty years previously the then proprietor of the soil cleared away the western part of the mound and opened the primary and some other cists ; he appeared to have but little idea of what he was to find, and probably looked for other things than prehistoric relics. The cromlech is placed east and west longitudinally. The west contains the primary cist, the east end is the entrance and in ordinary cases is left open. An area or nave joins the primary cist, having on each side a succession of cists, and this area comes into contact on each side with the avenue or parallelith

forming the entrance. The cromlech becomes narrower and depressed as it proceeds east; but it does not appear to have had ever more than one transverse block to cover it in. The primary cist is a fine specimen of Celtic architecture. It consists of five upright stones in contact placed in a circular form, four of which support the transverse block of immense weight; the fifth and central stone does not reach the capstone by a few inches, but the whole form a complete barrier to ingress from the west. I commenced operations by cutting a trench on the east part of the mound, which I thought would strike the entrance to the cromlech. Soon I came upon a wall which seemed to me to close in the entrance. Breaking through this, I came to a second and third, running in a south-westerly direction, and one in a north-westerly. The three walls sprung from the outer upright stones at the entrance (north and south respectively), admitted full ingress to the cromlech, and are circular and concentric. The outer wall blocked up the entrance from the east; the stones of the walls are well laid, having no mortar or cement to bind them; the outer wall is upright, but the inner incline inward from their base, and all have a support of rubble. The walls vary in height from two feet to three, and are separated from each other some three or four feet. Betwixt the inner and second wall on the south side, and not far from the entrance to the cromlech, are four upright stones, looking very much like the remains of a peristalith of a date anterior to the walls. I have been informed that in clearing away the mound on the west front, portions of walls were discovered, and this confirms me in my ideas that the walls I discovered were continuous. The labour of opening this cromlech has been considerable, for it was covered in with rubble and rough stones. Through this the surface water readily percolated, and no doubt thoroughly decomposed many of the deposits. Some skulls found were so decayed as to render it impossible to determine their type. I found human remains interred in all the forms I have described, also small deposits of charcoal, layers of limpet shells and shingle; a great quantity of fragments of pottery, some fine, some coarse, heaped together as if by design; a small quantity of split flints of no definite form, but no urns or implements, domestic or warlike. . . .”

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*Prehistoric Archæology: Cornwall Tolmens.*—We wish to draw attention to the following:—

“*To the Editor of the Times.*

“Sir,—You recorded last week the destruction of the great Tolmaen,\* in Constantine parish, near Penrhyn, which was blown up a few days ago for the sake of the granite by a man named Dunstan.

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\* A Correspondent writes:—“Immediately beneath the Main (or Mean) rock, is an extensive and valuable quarry of superior granite, which has been worked to a depth of about forty feet, and close up to the bed on which the Main rock rested. This quarry has been worked by a man named Dunstan, who appears to have had a great desire to get at the valuable bed of granite on which the rock rested; and, unknown to Mr. W. Hosken, the proprietor of the land, we are informed, has been working after dark,

“Having been informed some weeks ago by the Rev. Mr. Winwood that the Tolmaen was in danger, I put myself in communication with the proprietor, Mr. Haskin, intending to offer some compensation for, or, if possible, to acquire it permanently for the nation; but I was assured that there was no reason for any anxiety on the subject.

“The mischief done is of course irreparable: but every right-minded man must condemn the wanton barbarism of him who has thus destroyed, for the mere sake of the granite on which it stood, a monument which old Borlase called the ‘most astonishing of its kind.’

“I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“March 21st.

“JOHN LUBBOCK.”

“In consequence of Sir John Lubbock’s appeal on the late destruction of the Great Tolmaen, the Council of the Ethnological Society have appointed a Committee to investigate the prehistoric monuments of these islands, and the measures to be taken for their preservation. It includes Sir John Lubbock, Prof. Huxley, Colonel Lane Fox, Mr. Hyde Clarke, Mr. John Evans, Mr. Thomas Wright, Dr. Thurnam, Mr. H. G. Bohn, Mr. Blackmore, and Mr. A. W. Franks.”—*Athenæum*.

In consequence of a communication from Sir John Lubbock in reference to the destruction of the great Tolmaen in Cornwall, the Council of the Ethnological Society has named a committee to ascertain the present state of prehistoric monuments in these islands, and the best means for their preservation. The committee comprises Sir John Lubbock, Professor Huxley, Colonel Lane Fox, Mr. Hyde Clark, Mr. Blackmore, Mr. John Evans, Mr. A. W. Franks, Mr. T. Wright, Mr. H. G. Bohn, and Mr. Samuel Laing, Vice-President.

*Antiquarian Discovery.*—While the sexton of the parish church of Padstow, Cornwall, was digging in the churchyard on Monday, he came upon an upright piece of granite, fixed in a piece of much larger size, which seemed to form the lower part of a very ancient piece of carved work. The footpiece was a large, flat, and irregular-sided granite stone, eight feet long and five feet wide, weighing nearly three tons. Padstow Church was built more than a thousand years ago.

boring holes and blasting underneath the rock. He appears to have failed in his first attempt, but on Tuesday he bored a hole on the other side, and put in a charge, which, when fired, threw the Tolmen off its pivot, when it gradually, and as if reluctantly, rolled into the quarry beneath, where it now lies forty feet below the place it has occupied for centuries, to the wonder and admiration of thousands. Soon after it fell into the quarry these greedy Goths fell on it like crows on carrion, and commenced boring holes in it, intending with their rippers and wedges to split it in pieces; but, fortunately, the proprietor was informed of what had taken place, and he immediately gave orders that it should remain as it is, as it was contrary to his wish that it should have been disturbed.”